



Bio Sketch Ira W. Lieberman, Ph.D.

Ira W. Lieberman Ph.D. has been President and Chief Executive Officer of LIPAM International, Inc., since October 2004. In this capacity he has advised governments, not-for-profit institutions and private companies in emerging market, transition and developing market countries. Much of his advisory work has been focused on the microfinance sector where he has served on the board of directors of several institutions in the sector and has also raised funds primarily for microfinance investment funds in Africa.

Ira worked for the World Bank in Washington DC from 1993-2004 and from 1985-1987 in several positions, including the following: (i) Senior Advisor, ECA Region from February 1993 to July 2004. In this position, he was responsible for oversight of all private and financial sector work in the transition economies of Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Turkey; (ii) He was Acting Director of the Global Small Business Department for the World Bank Group (IFC and IBRD). In this position, Ira created and managed a Small Business Department, which supported World Bank Group (WB) activity for small and medium enterprises globally; (iii) He served as Chief Executive Officer of the Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest ("CGAP"). In this position, Ira created and managed an international secretariat for 26 bilateral and multilateral donors to support the development and sustainability of microfinance institutions throughout the developing world. He managed a grant facility of some \$40 million to support capacity building for some 50 microfinance institutions globally; (iv) He served as Senior Manager for Privatization and Restructuring Private Sector Development Department. In this position, was responsible for global best practice in privatization and restructuring and directly advised several countries on their privatization programs; (vi) Ira worked in several countries on crisis resolution and post-crisis industrial restructuring—Mexico (1985-1987), Korea (1998-2001), Turkey (2001-2002) and Argentina (2002)

On leave from the World Bank from July 2003 to July 2004, Ira worked with the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) as a Senior Economic Advisor to George Soros, focusing on creating a microfinance investment fund for Southeast Europe.

Prior to joining the World Bank, Ira had almost 20 years of experience in the private sector -- ICC Industries, Inc.(New York) a privately held global trading and manufacturing group in the chemicals industry where Ira served variously as CFO, Executive Vice President and President of the Manufacturing Group; at Touche Ross in Brussels as Manager Consulting Operations Europe(now Deloitte & Touche), at Young & Rubicam, European headquarters in Brussels as Financial and Media Systems Director Europe; and, at Arthur Andersen, New York, in their Administrative Services (consulting) Division.

Ira has been a Director of a number of companies including several publicly listed companies: such as Bidel Inc, a NASDAQ listed bio-tech company Boston Life Sciences NASDAQ listed bio-tech company,;and Zenith Laboratories, Inc, a NASDAQ listed generic drug manufacturer from 1978 to 1982;

He has also served on the boards of several not-for-profit institutions primarily focused on microfinance and social (impact) investing—(i) the Calvert Foundation (Bethesda MD.); (ii) the Pamiga Network—a network of 15 microfinance institutions (MFIs) in East and West Africa. Ira was Chairman of Pamiga Finance, an investment fund managed by Pamiga to fund members of its network. (iii) Fintech Africa a technical assistance company serving MFIs in East and West Africa. Fintech was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Investment Bank and the Dutch Government. Ira chaired Fintech's Board of Directors, recruited its management team and oversaw relationships with the donor institutions; (iv) The Emergency Liquidity Facility for Latin America (ELF) Ira chaired ELF's board for some 10 years. ELF was funded by several donor institutions including the IDB/ MIFF, the Swiss Government, U.S. OPIC and foundations such as Accion International and the Calvert Foundation; he also chaired the Board of HELP Haiti an extension of ELF's activities funded by the Clinton Bush Foundation, the IDB and other institutions; and HEFF a microfinance investment fund supporting higher education in Central and South America through MFIs.

Ira has published extensively on three principal topics—privatization and restructuring; on financial crises and workouts/ resolution strategies; and on microfinance. Among his several books Ira is the author of *In Good Times Prepare for Crisis*, Brookings Press, 2018 and is a co-editor of *The Future of Microfinance*, Brookings Press, June 2020.

Ira has a BA from Lehigh University an MBA from Columbia University and a Ph.D. (D.Phil.) from Oxford University. He was a member of Wolfson College while at Oxford. He also studied at El Colegio de Mexico in his junior year at Lehigh University.